THE SEVENTH DAY.

25th February 1918.

The Assembly met at 11-50 A. M. on Monday, the 25th February 1918.

III. PROTECTION.

(1) LEGISLATION—(*Concluded*).

109. Desirability of amending the Hindu Religious Endowments Regulation in view to the protection of the properties of *Ooranma* temples and the other Hindu public institutions.

Mr. P. V. Krishna Iyer (Member, Kunnatnad Taluk).—In the memorandum presented by the Member, he had stated that 90 per cent of the Hindu temples in the State were *Ooranma* temples and the *Ooranmakkars* who posed themselves as the owners of such temples were only the trustees of such endowments. By a mistaken notion of their status, rights and responsibilities, such *Ooranmakkars* considered themselves as absolute owners of the Devaswoms under their trust and appropriated the whole or major portion of the income of the Devaswoms. Several temples had gone to ruin owing to the utter mismanagement and criminal neglect of their trustees. In several cases dissensions occurred amongst the *Ooranmakkars* which gave rise to Civil and Criminal suits, the cost involved thereby being debited to the Devaswom funds. Proper accounts were not kept regarding the income and expenditure of the Devaswoms and such accounts as were in existence were not being checked or scrutinised by the *Ooranmakkars*. No attention was being paid to the repair of the temple buildings and the jewels, vessels, furniture, &c., belonging to the Devaswoms. Regulation III of 1079 was not effective to remedy the evils complained of. Even the provisions of that Regulation were not being fully availed of and properly worked. By section 4 of the Regulation it was competent to the Government to call upon the trustees or managers of any private religious endowments to submit periodically accounts of income and expenditure. But there was no provision making it compulsory on the part of the trustees to produce such accounts. It did not also appear that any Committees were appointed by Government under section 10 for the effective superintendence of religious endowments or that any forms were prescribed by them under section 16 for accounts, statements and returns to be submitted by trustees, officers or Committees. The number of *Ooranma* temples in the State was also not correctly known. With a view to ascertain the condition of *Ooranma* temples and to devise measures for improving their working, the Member prayed that the Government should appoint a Committee to pay special attention to the following points:—

(1) The preparation of a list showing the total number of *Ooranma* temples in the State, their names, the names of the trustees, the date of establishment of each temple, the names of the present managers and the total annual income and expenditure.

(2) The amount of debt incurred by each Devaswom and the reasons therefor; whether it was necessary to revise the *pathivu* and what arrangements should be made to discharge the debt.

(3) The date of the last repair of the Devaswom building ; whether it was necessary to attend to any repairs, and if so, how to find the necessary funds?

(4) Information as to the volume of litigation between *Ooranmakkars* in each Devaswom. How was the cost of such litigation met ?

(5) Whether immovable properties attached to the Devaswom had been alienated for consideration and if so, for what amount and for what purpose?

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(6) Whether proper accounts of income and expenditure in each Devaswom were kept.

In conclusion, the Member added that it would be well if the management of the *Ooranma* Devaswoms was placed under the supervision of Government and the Tahsildar asked to inspect the Devaswoms and their accounts once or twice in the year and initial the accounts.

VI.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

(2) Medical Relief—(*Continued*).

110. Reorganisation of the Ayurveda Department.

Mr. N. Narayana Panikkar (Member, Thiruvalla Taluk) dwelt upon the peculiar virtues of the Ayurvedic system of treatment and said that it was not sufficient if the pupils in the Ayurvedic school studied a good deal of theory by rote. The Ayurvedic School should be improved with facilities for the performance of surgical operations. If that was not done, there was no use in maintaining the institution. The reforms proposed by the Member were:—

(1) Lecturers versed in Ayurvedic and English systems of Medicine should be appointed in the Ayurvedic School.

(2) There should be a Central Ayurvedic Hospital for treatment of general diseases with provision for surgical operations, practice of midwifery and other forms of up-to-date treatment.

(3) There should be a factory for the preparation of all kinds of medicines and drugs, such as tinctures, syrups, essences, &c., and a medical laboratory for research.

(4) There should be provision for the training of women and encouragement in the shape of scholarships should be given to them.

(5) Class work should not last for more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

(6) Examinations should be held and those coming out successful should be given degrees and diplomas.

(7) Grant-in-aid should be given to the degree-holders only.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

111. Establishment of an Ayurveda Patasala in Central Travancore.

Mr. N. Padmanabhan Vaidyan (Member, Nominated) prayed that a well-equipped Ayurvedic institution be started in some locality in Central Travancore. The Member also suggested that the Director of Ayurveda be ordered to make an enquiry as to how many candidates passed from the Trivandrum Ayurvedic School till now and how many of them followed the profession.

Dewan's reply.—The question of reorganising the Ayurveda Patasala at Trivandrum is under the consideration of Government. The other suggestion of the Member is noted.

VII EDUCATION.—(*Continued*).

112. Education.

Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai B. A. & B. L. (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) said that, though a good deal had been accomplished as a result of the working of the voluntary principle of education, there were some defects. In the first place, the strength in the Vernacular schools of the State in all classes had been so alarmingly rising that a large number of youths were being turned out every year with a fund of literary instruction the only use of which was to make its recipients aspire for appointments in the Government service. He was not oblivious of the fact that Government were steadily endeavouring to impart agricultural and industrial education to the boys and girls and that 6 foreign scholarships had also been awarded. But what those scholarship-holders were going to do on their return was a problem to be satisfactorily solved. The scientific knowledge of those young men should be utilized

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